PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Keiki NERIISHI, et al.

Docket No: Q68754

Appln. No.: 10/083,415

Group Art Unit: 2878

Confirmation No.: 7378

Examiner: Albert J. Gagliardi

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: METHOD FOR READING RADIATION IMAGE FROM STIMULABLE PHOSPHOR SHEET

OK TO ENTER 4/19/04 WPW

SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

MAIL STOP PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to your request in the Office Action dated August 25, 2003, we are enclosing a substitute specification wherein the lines are double-spaced. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of this substitute Specification.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark L. Hayman
Registration No. 51,793

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 24, 2004

METHOD FOR READING RADIATION IMAGE FROM STIMULABLE PHOSPHOR SHEET

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for reading radiation image from a stimulable phosphor sheet in which a latent radiation image is contained, and an apparatus for the radiation image reading method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When a stimulable phosphor is exposed to a radiation such as X-ray, it absorbs and stores a portion of energy of the radiation. The stimulable phosphor then emits stimulated emission according to the level of the stored energy when the phosphor is exposed to stimulating light.

A radiation image recording and reproducing method utilizing the stimulable phosphor has been widely employed in practice. This method utilizes a stimulable phosphor sheet (also called, radiation image storage panel), and comprises the steps of causing the stimulable phosphor of the phosphor sheet to absorb radiation energy having passed through an object or having radiated from an object; sequentially exciting the stimulable phosphor with a stimulating light such as a laser beam to emit a stimulated emission; and photoelectrically collecting the